

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE. BOWERY—CORTLANDT BROTHERS—
JUNIO JUNE—DEATH TALK.

BROADWAY THEATRE. BROADWAY—HURCHACK—MY
YOUNG WIFE AND MY OLD UNCLE.

BURTON'S THEATRE. Chambers street—OUR GAL—
SHE'S A JAIL-BIRD—HARRY HAY.

NATIONAL THEATRE. Chatham street—ROMEO AND JULIET—
MAID OF BRISTOL.

WALLACK'S THEATRE. Broadway—THE STRAWHAT—
CONQUERING THE QUESTION.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE. Bowery—AFTERNOON—KISS IN
THE DARK—DOUBT A BLOODY ROOM—EVENING—SOLDIER'S
RETURN—QUEEN OF THE ARCADE—LADIES' ROOM.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—AFTERNOON AND EVENING—ST. MARY'S
EYE.

CHRISTY'S OPERA HOUSE. 472 Broadway—CHRISTY'S
MELODIES BY CHRISTY'S OPERA TROUPE.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS. Wood's Musical Hall, 444 Broadway—
CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

MADISON SQUARE—AFTERNOON AND EVENING—DANIEL
ROBERTS' COLLEGE MINSTRELS.

GIORAMA. 25 Broadway—HARVARD'S PARADE OF
THE HON. LAY.

OWEN'S ALPINE RAMBLES. 338 Broadway.

CHINESE ROOMS—NEW ORLEANS SENSATIONS.

New York, Wednesday, June 1, 1853.

Mails for Europe.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD.

The Herald mail steamship Africa, Capt. Harrison, will
have this port to-day, at 12 o'clock, for Liverpool.

Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of
the NEW YORK HERALD will be received at the following
places in Europe:—

LIVERPOOL.—John Hunter, No. 2 Paradise street.

LONDON.—Edward Sanford & Co., Cornhill.

Wm. Thomas & Co., No. 19 Outhurst street.

PARIS.—Livingston, Wells & Co., Rue de la Bourne.

R. H. Revell, No. 17 Rue de la Banque.

The European mails will close at half past ten o'clock
this morning.

THE WEEKLY HERALD will be published at half past nine
o'clock this morning. Single copies, in wrappers, six
pence.

The short trip of the steamship Arabia, from Liver-
pool to this port, put us in possession of news from
England and the continent of Europe up to the
21st of May, of papers from the East Indies,
and a highly interesting letter from our special cor-
respondent in China, all of which we received a little
after noon yesterday.

The English House of Commons had met, and
judging from the number of notices of motions
placed upon the books, members were much in-
vigorated by the Whitehall recess. Ministerial ex-
planations were asked for regarding the an-
nexation of Peru, and the reported interven-
tion in the affairs of China. Sir C. Wood
stated, in reply to the first, that the
territory was held by the authority of the Governor-
General of India, having the approval of the ex-
ecutive at home, in lieu of war expenses. Lord John
Russell answered the last by acknowledging that
His Majesty had sought British aid, but that
nothing further than the protection of English
property would be attempted.

The Customs Acts Report, and that of the Com-
mittee of Ways and Means—on the Gladstone
budget—were accepted. A bill for the better regu-
lation of nurseries had been introduced, in which the
habits of the constitution was intended to
supercede the *habits corporis* of the church, with re-
gard to young ladies.

Captain Gordon, of the American liner "Albert,"
died very suddenly in London.

In France, the imperial project for the revival of
two sections of the penal code, excited deep feel-
ings of apprehension for the peace of the country.

It was said that pecuniary embarrassments pressed
upon the Emperor, and that his temper was
considerably chafed by the reception given to Leopold
of Belgium by his royal neighbors. The Bourse was
hourly agitated by rumors said to be from Constantinople.
The Journal displayed any hostile inten-
tion of the government towards the Sandwich
Islands.

The Madrid press was in a perfect blaze regarding
the appointment of Mr. Soule. One section recom-
mended his non-reception by the cabinet and court,
and the other advised the consolation of haughty Cas-
tilian indifference.

The disciples of Joe Smith were likely to fare ill in
Prussia.

At Constantinople there had been a temporary
suspension of diplomatic movements, but it was said
that Prince Menschikoff had received despatches, the
contents of which he had not yet communicated to
the government of the Porte, and commercial men
felt a little uneasy regarding the result of his mis-
sion.

The elections in Holland had been, so far, ad-
verse to the Catholic interest, and a similar anti-
Catholic spirit seemed to pervade the Swiss federal
confederation.

Our East Indian and China correspondence
are by far the most interesting items of the foreign
news. The letter of our China correspondent gives a
succinct sketch of the progress of the revolution, and
a distinct foreboding of its effect, both in a territorial,
commercial and religious point of view. The
early education of the successful leader is mentioned,
and the religio-political power which now directs
him alluded to.

In addition, we publish an important article from
the Singapore *Free Press*, from which it would seem
as if our Eastern correspondent invited a little Yankee
enterprise towards his quarter of the globe.

Considering the relations existing between the English
government and the Indian press, and taking into ac-
count the aspect of Indian affairs in London, the ar-
ticle has more than usual significance.

The debates in both branches of our State Legis-
lature yesterday were of an exceeding spicy and in-
teresting character. The Senate, after passing
some bills of minor importance, took up the Anti-
liquor bill—very similar to the Maine law—the con-
sideration of which consumed most of the day.

The diversity of opinion upon this measure among
Senators is somewhat surprising. Mr. Beckman,
in the course of his remarks, it will be seen,
made a general onslaught against socialism,
while Mr. Cooley, on the other hand, came out
boldly in defence of the Maine law. The con-
troversy was terminated by recommitting the
bill to the Committee of the Whole for amendments
by the casting vote of the Lieutenant Governor.

This probably puts the measure to sleep for the
remainder of the session. The Assemblymen, during
the morning hour, amused each other with a variety
of farcical remarks upon a proposition to reconsider
the vote accepting the invitation to participate in
the railway consolidation festival at Niagara.

Having given vent to their wit, they took up the canal
enlargement question, which occupied their atten-
tion for the balance of the day. The plan of Sena-
tor Vanderbilt, including Mr. Hadley's amendment,
was voted down, and at the time of adjournment
several members were struggling to amend the
proposition of Mr. West. It is reported that the Go-
vernor intends to veto the bill extending the basis of
canal circulation. Read the highly interesting
despatch from our special correspondent.

The slavery question is still the great topic of dis-
cussion in the Presbyterian General Assembly at
Buffalo. The Southern delegates deplore the fur-
ther agitation of the subject, and have plainly in-
dicated, by a protest, that should a measure now
presented, requesting their churches to answer inquiries
respecting slavery be passed, said churches will be
compelled to secede. On the other hand, the dele-
gates from the West threaten to secede unless a de-
cided stand is taken by the Assembly upon the

matter at issue. Present appearances in *Acute* that
the Northern and Southern Presbyterians in churches
will follow the example of the Methodist *Acute*, and
disolve the bonds of union before a great while.

Among other things, we observe that at the members
of the Assembly have almost unanimously declared,
notwithstanding the report of D. C. Cox, that the
marriage of a man to his niece is contrary to the
laws of God, and revolting to human nature.

The Methodist Episcopal Conference closed their
session yesterday. The charge made by the Rev.
Mr. Pease against the Presby. of Elder, (the Rev. Hen-
ry Bangs,) were with but two exceptions voted
down by the members present, and the characters of
both of the reverend gentlemen were passed. The
Bishop read the appointment of the various mem-
bers for the ensuing year, which interesting docu-
ment, together with our report, will be found else-
where.

We learn from Washington that five or six more
clerks were discharged from the Census bureau yester-
day, and that it is in contemplation to reduce the
force to thirty in that department by the first of next
month. The retiring Commissioner of Public Works
is reported to have been burnt in effigy on Monday
night.

Judge Thos. M. Pettit, the recently appointed Di-
rector of the United States Mint, died in Philadel-
phia last Monday night.

Dr. Kane sailed yesterday in the brig *Advance*, on
his second expedition to the Arctic regions in
search of Sir John Franklin. He was accompanied
down the bay by his father, Judge Kane, his three
brothers, and a large number of friends. The steam-
boat Union, with the members of the New York
Masonic Grand Lodge, and a company of two or
three hundred persons, proceeded a long distance
with them. An interesting account of the depar-
ture of the expedition will be found in another
column.

Mr. Meagher lectured before a crowded audience
in Boston last evening.

By reference to the statistics elsewhere, it will be
seen that no less than nine thousand one hundred
and thirty-two persons arrived at this port during
the three days ending on Monday last.

Eight persons were killed by the explosion of the
boiler of a steamer at Quebec on Monday night.

The trial of Captain Molony, charged with the
murder of two sailors on board the ship *Roscius*, in
which Dr. Christian is included as a principal, will
be moved on to-day, in the United States Circuit
Court.

In the Supreme Court, general term, there will be
an argument this day in the case of Fitzgerald, con-
victed of the murder of his wife, and sentenced for
execution on the 17th of June.

The trial of Woodward, for the murder of his wife,
having been commenced in the Criminal Court at
Washington yesterday, it is probable the case of John
Charles Gardner will be postponed till September
next.

In addition to a variety of other interesting mat-
ter, to-day's inside pages contain the Act Regulating
the New Currency; The Southern Commercial Move-
ment; Presidential Appointments; The New Govern-
ment of Minnesota; Commercial, Theatrical, Sport-
ing and Miscellaneous News, &c.

**Movements of the Colored Men—Dead against
Liberia.**

We have received from George T. Downing,
"colored American," (so widely celebrated
for his extra fine large fat oysters, fried, roasted,
or stewed,) the following diplomatic note on the
African colonization question:—

PROVIDENCE, May 20, 1853.

DEAR FRIEND:—Enclosed are the proceedings of a
meeting of the colored citizens of this city. It will
be seen that here, as well as elsewhere, colored men
are resolved upon doing something. It will be seen
that they are determined in their hostility to the
Colonization Society and the Fugitive Slave law,
and that they are resolved to do something to
legal disabilities that they labor under in the State.
I call your attention to the same, as I am aware
that you would be advised as to all that is going on.
The communication is from the Providence *Post* of
to-day. Very respectfully, yours,

GEO. T. DOWNING.

(As the Herald would say, F. R. S.)

The meeting to which this communication
refers was held in Providence, Rhode Island,
on the 27th and 28th ult., and its objects may
be guessed at from the following pointed and
comprehensive preamble to their opening resolu-
tions:—

Whereas, we are an oppressed people, desirous of
casting off our oppressions; Whereas, we have er-
rored in the course of our own people; Whereas, we
are people widely scattered all over the land, with
scarcely any communion, with no friendly sym-
pathizing press generally circulating in our midst; Whereas,
the Fugitive Slave law still causes suffering
and grief; Whereas, there is an awakening conscience
abroad, which can better be aroused by those striking
"who would be free," and believing that the time
has come for a continuous existence of some na-
tional organization of our own people; Therefore,
we call with great satisfaction the announcement in
Frederick Douglass' paper, of a call for a national
convention of our people, to assemble on the 6th of
July next, in the city of Rochester, New York, and
to consider the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That we are determined to give to
the Fugitive Slave law, while it has the credit of
awakening the slumbering American conscience,
of giving activity to the crippled re-
gards for freedom existing in the American breast,
is none the less entitled to our exertion and con-
tempt, because it is a blot upon our national char-
acter, because of its brutal inhumanity in despoiling
happy freemen, creating universal alarm and distress,
and because it sets at defiance the law of God.

And George T. Downing, and his Rhode
Island associates, (who can't think of giving up
the profits of the oyster business in this country
yet awhile,) thus lay down the law upon the
colonization question, and indirectly against
the insidious project of George Sanders &
Company, of the Ebony line of steamers, for the
transportation of the "free colored Americans"
to Liberia:—

Resolved, That it is the wish of the Colonization
Society to get us away from America to Africa, be-
cause they hate us; but we will remain—we have
a work to perform at home before we can go
abroad—we have to redeem ourselves from the de-
grading position we have occupied—our country-
men must here repair the injustice they have done
us—we have an inseparable identity with the mil-
lions of enslaved in the land. Aye, it would war
with the desire of God for us to leave the continent.

Resolved, That the American colonization scheme,
ever false and unjust because conceived, existing
and persisting in error and injustice, is no less en-
titled to our uncompromising condemnation and con-
tempt because it makes prominent the false plea
that it is the Christianizing and civilizing of Africa
that impels them to effect.

Here they are going to remain. That's flat.
They don't intend to be humbugged by the cry
that they are proper instruments for Christian-
izing benighted Africa. That's all moonshine.

And, by the way, the letter of G. T. D., in one of
the leading abolition organs of this city yester-
day, enlarges to some extent upon the hostility
of our free blacks to Liberia. Downing has no
fancy for the pestilential coast of Africa—no
white men—no oysters there; and besides, he
desires first to achieve the emancipation of the
slaves of the South, and the elevation of the
black man to the same platform, political and
social, with the white man in the United States.
When all this is accomplished he will be ready
to discuss the question of Christianizing Africa
upon the scheme of the Liberian Colonization
Society, but not before.

We may, therefore, take it for granted that
of a system of general co-operation between the

the leading black men of the North have set
their faces against the colonization project,
they will be very apt to rally the masses of
their Northern brethren in active hostility
against it at their forthcoming National Con-
vention at Rochester. We may further assume
that that convention will establish something
free blacks of the North and the white aboli-
tionists, from Massachusetts to Wisconsin, and
thus bring another active element into the
agitation of the slavery question, which has
been passive heretofore.

In contemplating this combined movement
against the Fugitive Slave law—against the
Colonization Society, and against emigration
to Liberia, and in support of the dark and
bloody schemes of the abolitionists—we are con-
strained to ask, Where is the Castle Garden
Union Safety Committee? Do they not see that
the abolitionists, whites and blacks, male
and female, are concocting a more formidable
crusade against the institutions of the South
than any which has yet threatened the safety
of the Union? We call the attention of Gen.
Pierce to this movement before he makes any
more free-soil appointments.

**American Biographies—Splendid Hit in the
Pictorial Line—Plenty of Eminent Americans.**

This is the age of pictorials. What a sugges-
tive fact! How interesting it would be to trace
it back in its genealogy—away back to the
woodcuts of Albert Durer—to the illuminations
of the monkish manuscripts of the dark ages—to
the works of art of the ancient Romans, of the
Greeks, of the Egyptians, of the Pyramids
of Nimrod, of Baalbec, of Petrie, of Elephanta,
of China, and of Yucatan! How strange, too,
prima facie, that in these days of steamboats,
steamships, steam locomotives, electrical tele-
graphs, and gold mines, and everything utilitarian
and fast—thirty, forty, fifty miles an hour;
and yet how consistent with the spirit of the
times, that pictorial newspapers, pamphlets and
books should be all the rage. Happy the man
now, who is an engraver on wood, or stone, or
type metal, or copper, or steel. He has a fortune
in his hands for now a periodical or a book
without engravings is a poor thing—people
will not buy it, and it won't pay.

Some shrewd and lucky men of genius have
appropriated this universal rage for pictorials
to a practical purpose, and have coined money
by it. We might advert for examples to our
most popular literary magazines; to the
illustrated "Uncle Tom's Cabin"; to that read-
able and interesting work, with a portrait to
each memoir, of "The Napoleon Dynasty"; to
that copious and complete report, with pictures
to match, of the Forrester Divorce Case, by the
Law Reporter of the NEW YORK HERALD; and,
in fact, to every pictorial work of any preten-
sions at all, that has been published since the
last French Revolution.

But perhaps the best hit in the pictorial book
business of the last twelve months, is an "elegantly
got up" octavo, intitled "Portraits and
Memoirs of Eminent Americans," (mark the
qualification, "eminent Americans,") by John
Livingston, of the New York bar. And as this
work "opens up" a new epoch in the great
chapter of American biography, we propose to
give it a brief inspection, for the benefit of the
public, in contrast to another New York bio-
graphical work of a recent date, entitled "Men
of Our Time," which is not illustrated.

Mr. Livingston's "Eminent Americans," in the
two volumes which have been issued, (and
there is a third under way,) comprehend one
hundred and four biographical sketches, each
with a pretty well engraved portrait of the man
whose history is appended. This catalogue
includes a few really "eminent" men;
but the "overwhelming majority" are country
court lawyers, and the presidents of country
banks, some of them, very likely, of the wildcat
or red dog stripe of shimplasters, if they were
only brought to the pinch. And, as an illustration
of the relative value which Mr.
Livingston attaches to different classes of indi-
viduals, we find that while some twenty lines
are given to the biography of John Randolph
Clay, our Minister at Peru, not less than forty-
eight mortal octavo pages are bestowed upon
the life and public services of a Bank President
of Chautauque county, New York. We are
thus particular in designating the locality of
this "eminent American," because we know
that not one in ten thousand of the readers of the
HERALD will know where to "spot him." And
this sort of discrimination in favor of bank
presidents pervades this extraordinary compilation
of "eminent Americans," throughout.

Yet it is an interesting work. A connoisseur
in phrenology and physiognomy, especially,
will find it so. The portraits, as a general rule,
go strongly to confirm the description by Dic-
kens of the Americans at the London Crystal
Palace—"they are a lean, hard, dry, leathery set
of men, in black satin waistcoats," with here
and there a good fat one, jovial and generous.
But altogether, a traveller accustomed to the
society of "eminent" men, from these one hun-
dred and four portraits of "eminent Americans,"
would be very apt to form a most disparaging
and unjust opinion of our common, every day
people. In this view, we should regret to hear
that the popularity of Mr. Livingston's work ex-
tended beyond the boundaries of our own coun-
try. And we say this, with the full admission
that we have not the slightest doubt in the
world, that within his own immediate ballwick,
the most obscure of these "eminent Americans,"
is deservedly considered a very great man.

The only difference between John Jones and
Henry Clay, as an "eminent American," is that
the fame of the one does not cover quite so much
territory as the name of the other. That's all.

Still, these volumes are interesting as a literary
curiosity; and may be useful for further
reference, in many respects. For instance—one
of these days there will come upon us a general
financial explosion, and a bursting up of all the
wild cat, red dog, and other shabby banks in the
Union. The storm is steadily brewing now.
When the crash comes on, we may expect the
sudden disappearance from their banks of a
considerable number of the officers of our various
financial institutions. In that event, to
such as may desire to find them, it is not impos-
sible that Mr. Livingston's portraits may be use-
ful in some cases, as a guide. In regard to
such a contingency, we would suggest the addi-
tion of the cashiers of all the banks in the Union
to these "Memoirs and Portraits of eminent
Americans."

Upon the main chance, however, we suspect
Mr. Livingston has been eminently successful.
A book got up on such a plan cannot fail.
And what a field is here opened for Ameri-
can enterprise! With this discovery, in fact,
international copyright law may be said to exist
no longer.

Contrasted with the book called the "Men of

our Time," these "Eminent Americans" appear
in the boldest relief. The former work is an
"omnium gatherum" of Tom, Dick and Harry,
the main object apparently being to smuggle
into good company a large number of outsiders.
But the book has no portraits, and in that point
fails of meeting the spirit of the age. True,
Mr. Cornelius Mathews and Horace Greeley may
go down to posterity among the "men of our
time;" but how much more satisfactory, could
they be enrolled among Mr. Livingston's "emi-
nent Americans," with a portrait!

Finally, the mine which has been opened by
Mr. Livingston, from the fact that he continues
working it, is a rich one. It is a California
placer; for "eminent Americans," like many
of his, are as plentiful as blackberries. And, if
they are willing to pay handsomely for it, they
ought to be immortalized. Let our needy
literary writers step in. The mine is free.
Pictorial biographies are just the thing. There
are plenty of "eminent Americans."

JOHN BULL MENDING HIS PACE ON THE ATLANTIC.

The last two performances of the new
Cunard steamer Arabia will have the effect of
infusing fresh confidence and hopes into the
breast of John Bull, and of rendering the con-
test for naval superiority between England and
the United States still more interesting and
exciting. Heretofore, the results of the weekly
contest were too invariably alike, victory al-
ways resting with the steamers of the
Collins line. But now the Arabia, built expres-
sly as a prize disputant in the race, has twice
succeeded in beating her more immediate com-
petitor, the Arctic, and has made the last west-
ern trip in a shorter time than that yet attained
by any of the vessels of the same line.

The Arabia arrived in port at noon yesterday,
having made the passage in ten days and some-
thing over two hours—being a gain over the
time of the Arctic of six and three-quarter
hours. Her preceding trip eastward was ac-
complished by two hours inside of ten days—
thus beating the Arctic each way.

This victory has been the cause of great re-
joicing among the English residents of New
York, as there was an intense anxiety felt as to
the result of the contest between the Arctic and
Arabia, and heavy bets were pending on the
issue. But though this glorification is very nat-
ural under the circumstances, the Collins line
can well afford to suffer this defeat, inasmuch
as it will be seen by a compilation under our
head—that, of the six quickest trips on record,
only one of them was made by a Cunard
steamer, and that is the one now in question, it
being, moreover, the largest of the six. The
Arabia, however, has proved herself a gallant
rival.

Talk on "Change."

Considerable gratification was expressed by English
merchants on "Change" at the speedy voyage of the
Arabia, yet the Americans reminded them that she had only
beat the Arctic six or seven hours. The Arabia, however,
was admitted to be a noble ship, and ahead of any English
steamer afloat; and the prospect was that others could
be built in every respect equal to the present Collins
line; but by that time the Americans might also be able
to improve, and build others far ahead of anything now
afloat. At all events, the competition excited was likely
to do good. Without the Collins line we should not have
had the Arabia running to this port.

The arrival of the clipper ship Cent at this port
was announced yesterday, in eighty days from San Fran-
cisco. A splendid passage, but not equal to that of the
Northern Light. Her log should go to Lieut. Maury.

The Cent was a new ship, the model of a
clipper, constructed by Mr. Orlando B. Webb, of New-
buryport, as far back as 1790. He built a vessel accord-
ing to this model for the Messrs. Perkins, of Boston,
which went to Gothenburg and back in eighty days. He also
built the celebrated United States ship-of-war *Wasp*
on this model.

Complaint was made that the sea, (said to be quite a
young man,) of Dr. R. Patterson, of Philadelphia, late Di-
rector of the Mint, should have been selected as an agent
to visit New York and make arrangements for carrying
into operation the Assay Office in this city. It was
charged that the Doctor had cast his influence, in com-
mon with many other leading men in Philadelphia,
against the organization of a Mint or Assay Office in this
city, and hence it was rather odd of the way to send a
party from another city to visit a public establishment
located in a city which had opposed the measure, and
New York, in a population of about six hundred thou-
sand inhabitants, was presumed to have some men com-
petent to discharge its duties.

The sales of cotton yesterday reached about 3,000
bales, at steady prices. Breadstuffs were unchanged and
rather quiet. Pork was some firmer.

Marine Affairs.

ANOTHER QUICK TRIP FROM CALIFORNIA.—The New York
clipper ship Cent, Captain Brewster, arrived yesterday
from San Francisco in the short space of seventy-nine
days and a half. She left the Heads, below San Fran-
cisco, on the 12th March, at 3 P. M.; crossed the line
March 27, in lat. 116°, when 15 days out; passed Cape
Horn April 20, when 39 days out, and crossed the line
in the Atlantic on the 12th ultimo, in 61 days. On the 27th
ultimo, in lat. 37°, was becalmed, after which experi-
enced light airs and calms until she made the land, on
the 30th, and took a pilot. The Cent has only been
absent six months and fifteen days, the shortest per-
iod, we believe, which a voyage has ever been done from
any port. Her trip home the quickest ever yet re-
corded. The Cent was built by Mr. W. H. Webb,
of this city, who also built the Comet, which lately re-
turned from the same port under 53 days.

THE STEAMSHIP JAR. ADAMS, Captain Dickinson, arrived
yesterday morning from Charleston, in 62 hours. We
were surprised by the purser with late Charleston and
other southern papers.

HON. EDWARD EVERETT'S LECTURE.—The last of
the course of lectures provided for our citizens by the New
York Historical Society, and for the benefit of its fire-
proof building fund, will be delivered this evening at
Metropolitan Hall, by the Hon. Edward Everett, of Mas-
sachusetts. As a brilliant orator and an accomplished
scholar Mr. Everett has few equals in the country, and
since the death of Daniel Webster he has been properly
designated and regarded as the great New England States-
man. The community will have a rich intellectual treat
in the lecture of this evening.

Arthur Spring, the Murderer.

PHILADELPHIA, May 30, 1853.

DEAR SIR:—Through the kindness of one of the
officers of the Moyamensing prison, I to-day spent some
moments in the cell of Arthur Spring, the condemned
murderer. On entering the cell we found him seated on
his bunk, by the side of his spiritual adviser, who hap-
pened at the time to be making his morning visit, the
clergyman holding in his hand a copy of the Bible. There
were two chairs in the cell, and by invitation of
Spring himself we took seats, and he readily entered
into conversation. In reply to the remark that he was
looking very well, he said he felt more and more cheer-
ful as he approached the grave. To the question of a
writer, who was ignorant of the precise time of the ex-
ecution, he replied that "a week more next Friday is the
day." He then alluded to the report that he committed
a murder at Halifax some years since, and said that it
was another person of the same name, and that he
knew him well, &c. The hope from chain, once made
fast to a staple in the floor, and the other about his
ankle, prevented him from leaving his seat, though from
accident or design on his part the chain was nearly
broken by one of the bedclothes.

From the French nature of his crimes, and the like-
ness, I expected to see a man with a savage and de-
bauched countenance; but in this I was disappointed,
and was rather of an intelligent, thoughtful look,
with an eye entirely at rest, and indicating the most perfect self-possession. In short, he is
about the last person who would be selected in a pro-
minent assembly as the author of the horrid deeds
which have been attributed to and proved upon him.
He still persists in charging his son with the horrible
murder for which he is soon to suffer death.

PRISONERS.—The late rains caused severe freshets
in Maine, and the farmers have suffered severely by
the washing of their lands, which had just been seeded.
Considerable damage was done to the embankments, &c.,
on the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers. On the Kennebec,
there was a high freshet on the upper Kennebec,
and the boats above Augusta have been carried away,
and the river above Gardiner is filled with logs. Logs
are piled up the piers of the bridge at Gardiner at
feet out of water.

The Arctic Expedition.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE ADVANCE.—BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH OF DR. KANE, THE COMMANDER, ETC.

Dr. Kane and his intrepid crew sailed from this port
yesterday, for the Arctic regions, in search of the dis-
appeared Sir John Franklin. The brig *Advance*, of which
Dr. Kane was already given a full description, was towed
into the stream about nine o'clock in the morning, and
anchored astern of the *Fardian* frigate, where she remain-
ed for two hours, an object of intense curiosity to hun-
dreds of persons on the Battery.

About ten o'clock Dr. Kane arrived on board, and be-
tween that and twelve o'clock, the hour of his departure,
he was visited by a considerable number of his friends,
all anxious to bid him farewell before leaving on his noble
and philanthropic, but perilous enterprise. Dr. Kane,
himself, was in excellent health and spirits, and his
officers and crew, who are as gallant a company as ever
embarked on an expedition, appeared to anticipate
the hardships and difficulties which they must en-
counter, with the feelings of men bound upon a voy-
age of pleasure. As we boarded her about two hours
before she was taken in tow, we had an excellent
opportunity of observing the preparations which had
been made for the expedition. Nothing has been left un-
done to supply her commander with every facility nec-
essary for the prosecution of his search in quest of Sir
John Franklin, and in making scientific investigations
and discoveries in the Arctic regions. Dr. Kane believes
that there is a probability of Sir John Franklin's being
still alive, and bases his convictions on the fact that, in
the most remote region yet penetrated by any explorers,
there is abundance of animal life. "The resources of
that region," he says, in one of his lectures, "will be
found to be far more surprising than the public
generally are aware of." He is supplied with provisions
for three years, although he thinks he will not be longer
away than two years, at the utmost, and he takes with
him several sledges, for the purpose of travelling over the
ice when his vessel is frozen in and unable to pursue
her voyage. These sledges are